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DONOVAN IS URGED TO OPPOSE JAVITS

Drive Is Started for Lawyer
Who Got Powers' Release

By ALFRED E. CLARK

James B. Donovan, the Brooklyn lawyer who successfully negotiated the release of the U-2 pilot, Francis Gary Powers, from a Soviet prison, was proposed yesterday as the New York Democratic candidate for Senator.

A group of friends said they had written for support to 1,500 persons, including the more than 1,200 delegates who will attend next month's state Democratic convention in Syracuse.

Mr. Donovan was not present at a meeting called yesterday at the St. George Hotel in Brooklyn by William C. Mattison, a college classmate and fellow lawyer.

Mr. Mattison said his group had received Mr. Donovan's tacit approval to send up this apparent trial balloon. If it is successful and he is nominated, Mr. Donovan will oppose Senator Jacob J. Javits, Republican, in the November elections.

Acceptance Is Foreseen

Mr. Mattison said he was sure Mr. Donovan would accept the bid to make the race against Mr. Javits if his name was presented on the convention floor and a "ground-swell movement" began.

However, in San Francisco Mr. Donovan said he was "not a candidate for Senator or any other elected office at this time." The 46-year-old lawyer added: "I do appreciate the very generous efforts being made by Mr. Mattison and his associates." Mr. Donovan was in San Francisco to attend the American Bar Association convention.

He will be a delegate to the convention from Brooklyn's Third Assembly District. Mr. Donovan is vice president of the Board of Education.

Although several Democrats are seeking the Democratic nomination to oppose Governor Rockefeller, no Democrat has announced that he will seek the Senatorial nomination.

When Mayor Wagner was informed of the movement to back Mr. Donovan, he said:

"We ought to get persons interested to make known their views. Mr. Donovan is an able person. His candidacy deserves consideration."



BACKED FOR SENATE:
James Britt Donovan, who was proposed by friends for Democratic nomination.

Praised by Notables

Along with the letter and biographical sketch sent out by Mr. Donovan's friends were copies of letters of commendation Mr. Donovan had received from President Kennedy, John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In the letter the group said that to win in November "our party must nominate a nationally known, progressive candidate with an outstanding record of dedicated public service." They said Mr. Donovan "has these credentials in abundant measure."

In 1957 Mr. Donovan was counsel to Col. Rudolf I. Abel, the Soviet spy, when he was tried here on charges of espionage for the Russians. Abel was convicted and sentenced to a thirty-year prison term.

In early 1962, at the request of the Government, he negotiated in East Berlin with the Soviet Embassy and the East German Government for the exchange of Mr. Powers and an American student for Abel.

A graduate of Fordham College and Harvard Law School, he served in the Navy and took part in the Nuremberg trial of Nazi war criminals. He is married and has four children.

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